

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: 08/31/2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DECLARING HEALTH MISINFORMATION A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, health misinformation has significantly undermined public health efforts and the unmitigated proliferation of health misinformation has created a culture of mistrust and has prolonged the COVID-19 pandemic, endangering the health and safety of all San Diegans.

WHEREAS, the coronavirus (COVID–19) pandemic has resulted in over 318,120 cases and resulted in over 3,850 deaths in San Diego County, as of August 25th 2021; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID–19 has had a devastating impact on our health and safety, our regional economy, our communities of color, the educational development of our children, and every aspect of our lives; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 vaccines have met the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality and have been proven to be safe and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has received full FDA approval and been proven to be highly effective in preventing serious disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 and that its benefits outweigh its risks; and

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 vaccine is available to everyone in San Diego County at no cost, regardless of income, and is administered by health professionals, like nurses and doctors; and

WHEREAS, misinformation has caused confusion and nationally has led to eligible people declining COVID-19 vaccines, rejecting public health measures such as masking and physical distancing, and using unproven treatments; and

WHEREAS, on July 15th, 2021, the United States Surgeon General issued his first advisory describing the "urgent threat" posed by the rise of false information around COVID-19 — one that continues to put "lives at risk" and prolong the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, recent surges in infections and hospitalization from COVID-19 have highlighted the importance of clear and unequivocal communications from public officials that vaccines are the best protection against severe illness and hospitalization.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Board of Supervisors that health misinformation is declared a public health crisis and the County of San

Diego should commit to combating health misinformation and curb the spread of falsehoods that threaten the health and safety of our residents.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: _____,
DAVID M. STOTLAND
Senior Deputy County Counsel